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Ay, There's the Shrub: New "Temple Fire" Bougainvillea

With the introduction of our new BUSH BOUGAINVILLEA we again hail this plant from the jungles of South America which in the last half century has been domesticated and expanded from its original magenta into a dozen dazzling colors, and without which Southern California would be infinitely poorer in flowering splendor. It has been our privilege to introduce to California over the past quarter century about eighty per cent of the Bougainvillea varieties now in general distribution here. As a source for these welcome additions to our gardens we drew on amateurs, professionals, botanic gardens, etc., in South America, Mexico, Florida, Sicily, Jamaica, India and Australia.

Until about three years ago the only Bougainvilleas known to us were climbing or rambling types, usually of great vigor. Among several unnamed seedlings which we had imported for test was one with an unmistakable departure in (Continued on inside page)

The Evans & Reeves Grapevine

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JUNE, 1953

No. 2

IT'S TIME FOR

... Summer-flowing vines—one of the distinctive features of the Southern California garden—and a feature often overlooked because most of us are too lazy to train and control vines properly. It is also time for the inevitable preparation for the coming hot dry weather, and for filling vacant spots with outstanding perennials and summer flowering shrubs.

To select and plant **HOT WEATHER VINES** in the winter and early spring is usually a mistake. You can tell something about what they are going to look like right now, in June, and furthermore they will transplant well and start to grow almost immediately. Some of them will give you a display this season; all will be at their best next summer if set out in June of this season. If you have a really hot place in a hot garden, try **ANTIGONON LEPTOPUS** (*Rosa de Montana*) for masses of shocking pink on golden green leaves; this vine is deciduous and semi-herbaceous, so it will never become a pest in the Los Angeles area. Another heat lover with reserved growth habits is **JACQUEMONTIA CAERULEA**, a little climber (or spiller) with gray-green leaves and light pure blue blossoms, to be kept on the dry side. If it's brilliant orange you

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RE: DEARTH OF THE BLUES

The Acid Test

Immense flowers as well as large leaves make our plant for June a real standout, for the *Hydrangea*, for decades a favorite plant in Southern California, has found new use in contemporary gardens stressing the extravagant leaves of the tropics.

Our colorful collection includes both the robust species, *H. Macrophylla* (*Hortensis*), and the more refined and showy French hybrids which vary greatly as to color, ranging from white to pink and rose and on the blue, this variance being in direct proportion to acidity of the soil. A good blue *Hydrangea* is simply the result of quantity additions of ironstone or alum sulphate (winter and spring) to the soil of a strong pink plant, the stronger the pink, the stronger the resulting blue.

Adaptable as to exposure, *Hydrangeas* are ideally situated on the east side, are exceedingly hardy, require considerable moisture in warm weather, and profit greatly by a sharp pruning after the flowering season (now through summer and into fall). Gallon cans, \$1; five gallon cans, \$3.50 and \$4.

DON'T MISS THE FUCHSIA FESTIVAL

IT'S TIME FOR

(Continued from front page)

like, and speed, but still a light-weight climber, your answer is *THUNBERGIA GREGORI* (much superior to *T. Gibsoni*, which is more commonly seen); this makes a gaudy hanging basket in the hottest sun, a good ground cover, and is effective on low redwood fences or walls; blooms most of year quickly from gallon cans. *THUNBERGIA GRANDIFLORA*, the Blue Sky Flower, on the other hand, is a high-climbing subject, rather a heavy vine with poor winter foliage—but from midsummer to late fall its masses of really sky blue trumpets are quite a sight in a warm, well-watered situation protected from cold winds—on a heavy high fence or climbing into a large open Jacaranda—where there is little winter frost. The *BOUGAINVILLEA* varieties we've mentioned many times, but let us commend you again to Rose Queen, a really robust rose with coral and cerise shadings in each flower bract. Two only slightly known varieties of the *PASSION VINE* are *Passiflora mollissima*, pale pink and tough and extremely rampant (plant at the top of a cut in hillside and let it curtain down and cover the bare rock wall); and *P. Jamesonii*, a salmon relative of the above with somewhat more limited range of space but still wide-spreading. All Passion vines need chlordane spray occasionally to apprehend caterpillars. One glorious white-flowering vine, slow-growing and little known, is *OXERA PULCHELLA*, for sun or part shade, trailing or kept as a sprawling shrub with excellent dark green foliage. Among the most beautiful of all vines is one for part shade and perfectly drained soil—*STEPHANOTIS FLORIBUNDA*, evergreen, glossy, with wonderfully fragrant white flowers in the warm season. Also we are particularly happy to advise that we once again have the incomparable evergreen *CLEMATIS ARMANDI*. This is NOT summer flowering (usually March) but anyone who knows the beautiful pattern of pointed dark ribbed leaves will love it even without bloom. Most vines are \$1 to \$4.50; *Clematis armandi* \$7.50.

And now for the **HANDLING OF VINES** once you get them home. Those to go on walls should have good stout wires installed before vines are planted. If the wall is stucco, brick or stone, get cement nails or stucco nails from the lumber yard or hardware store. Usually a series of horizontal

stretches of wire a foot apart will be neat, sturdy and permanent; all you need is something firm to tie the vines to. Trellises are seldom satisfactory unless a part of the structure on which the vine is to climb. As vines grow don't be afraid to prune, thin, shape and train. You can usually limit the coverage to the area you wish to decorate, but take out the oldest canes occasionally and don't forget that vines, like shrubbery and trees, appreciate the sun getting down into their middles.

JUNE IS THE TIME, TOO, FOR MULCHING most of your plants to retain moisture and improve the soil at the same time. An excellent mulch for almost all kinds of plants, particularly Roses, Birds of Paradise, annuals and most shrubbery, is two parts Georgia peat, two parts steer manure, and one part Humisite. This costs more than straight manure, but it also lasts much longer and is much more beneficial.

SUMMER AND FALL ANNUALS which can still be planted include *ASTERS*, single and double (the singles are usually easier to grow); *MARIGOLDS*, tall and low; *ZINNIAS*, tall medium (*Peppermint Stick*), and short; *AGERATUM*, perhaps the best and longest blooming of all summer edgings for either full sun or part shade; and *TORENIA*, a little blue and violet flower for considerable shade.

High on the list of "best" **PERENNIALS** is the *GAILLARDIA*. Fine for cutting and for garden color in either pure yellow ("Sun God") or red-and-yellow (*Portola* hybrids), this sun-loving subject knows few if any pests, can be planted almost any month of the year, and once established blooms most of the year—available in flats at 50 cents a dozen or full grown in bloom in gallon cans at 85 cents a piece, to be set two feet apart. Another fine deep yellow is the Giant Yarrow, *ACHILLEA FILIPENDULINA*, to five feet and three feet across the second year, ideal for really long-stemmed bouquets, and the perfect subject for drying for winter color—gallon cans only 85 cents. Still a different yellow (or almost any color) is available in *GAZANIA*, no good for cutting but fine for mass color and drought and little care. Get in the habit of collecting *Gazanias*; pick up an odd color every time you're in the nursery. If you're looking for rock

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DON'T MISS THE FUCHSIA FESTIVAL

Temple Fire . . .

(Continued from front page)

character. In the succeeding years this Bougainvillea proved itself to be a true bush, round and compact in form, producing no runners, clothed in dark foliage and producing typical quantities of flowers which first appear brick colored and develop to a glowing cerise red. The name "Temple Fire" was contributed by a good friend and seems to us singularly appropriate.

NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME WE ARE ABLE TO OFFER THIS BUSH BOUGAINVILLEA "TEMPLE FIRE", inviting many new applications. For low hedging, bedding, bordering, or as a pot plant Bougainvillea "Temple Fire" offers opportunities which no other Bougainvillea, and for that matter very few other plants, can match. The cultural requirements are the same as for other Bougainvilleas, season of flower promises to extend over a period of six to eight months starting in April.

Our current display is carrying plenty of flower, and we urge you to come and see this unique new plant. Introductory prices for "Temple Fire" are \$2.50 in one gallon cans and \$6 in four gallon cans, with special discounts on quantity purchases.

It's Time For . . .

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plants, or little detail delicacies for the mixed flower border, by all means try TUNICA SAXIFRAGA (nothing like Saxifrage!), each plant of which makes a neat grassy tuft of green pierced by sprays of tiny shell pink flowers seldom seen nowadays in California gardens. And for some shade we offer a really exciting new WHITE SAXIFRAGE, correctly *Bergenia ligulata*, with big shiny green leaves softly toothed and almost perpetual spikes of pure white flowers with green eyes. This new introduction is \$2 in gallon cans and \$1 in three inch pots.

In **FLOWERING SHRUBS** there are JACOBINIA CARNEA, showy rose-red, to four feet, best in partial shade, \$4, five gallon cans; HIBISCUS HYBRIDS now coming into their best season, \$1.50 and \$4; and of course still the terrific show of PELARGONIUMS—85 cents and \$1.50, and a few even larger.

Hugh Evans

The old Greeks and Romans believed that their gods were jealous of perfection: if that was all they were jealous of they were doing pretty well, for perfection is not too common. I have been in a few gardens lately where the effort for perfection is much in evidence, for the plants have been chosen and planted with skill and care, creating that natural and harmonious effect which every proper garden should have.

I suppose we all nurse the unconquerable hope that some happy day we will succeed with some wayward things such as Rhododendrons, (if only they would perform as they do up north) and other items which have always eluded us; gardeners never give up trying, they are baffled to fight better. Our gardens in the main, however, must be repositories for plants which are happy with us. In addition to containing those plants which our forbearers before us loved and cherished, gardens may be treasuries of rare and beautiful things seldom seen. That a plant is rare does not necessarily make it desirable, nor does its rarity necessarily imply it is difficult. The late Gertrude Jekyll of England whose knowledge of gardening was infinite, and whose books are classics, once said it had taken her half a lifetime to find out what was best worth doing. The real gardener is always learning.

Omniscience is around that corner we never turn.

Rhyme in Season

In summer nurseries like ours
Sell plants on which are summer flowers;
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And there engage in summer sports.

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We know we'll see you all again.
We are not trembling full of fear;
Because it happens every year.

DON'T MISS THE FUCHSIA FESTIVAL

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**is reaching its blooming
peak NOW!**

Name one of our new
varieties and win
a prize.

